

BEHAVIORS THAT RESULT IN UNINTENTIONAL AND INTENTIONAL INJURIES

PERSONAL SAFETY

Behaviors and perceptions related to personal safety were the topic of 13 questions on the middle school survey and of 11 questions on the high school survey. Some of these questions measured the frequency with which students engage in behaviors related to unintentional injuries such as not wearing seat belts or helmets and riding in a car with a driver who had been drinking alcohol. When lap/shoulder belts are used properly, for example, they reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat occupants riding in passenger vehicles by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injuries by 50%.¹ Similarly, bicycle helmets offer bicyclists the best protection from head injuries during bicycle-related crashes.² Motor vehicle crash injuries, approximately 22 percent of which involve drivers who had been drinking alcohol,³ are the leading cause of death among youth aged 15-19 in the United States.

The personal safety section also dealt with how often students feel safe and accepted, whether they had missed school because of safety concerns; and if they had ever belonged to a gang or perceived gang activity at their school.

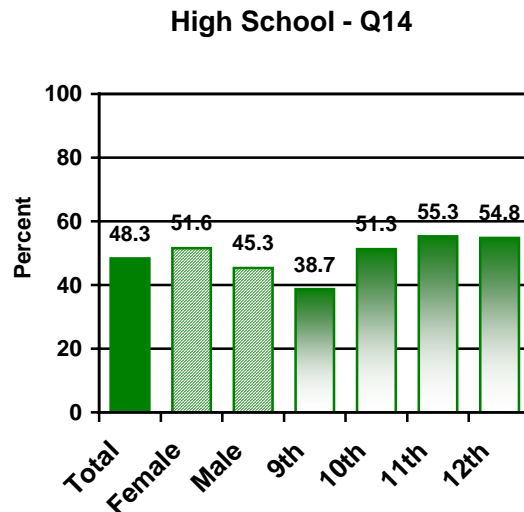
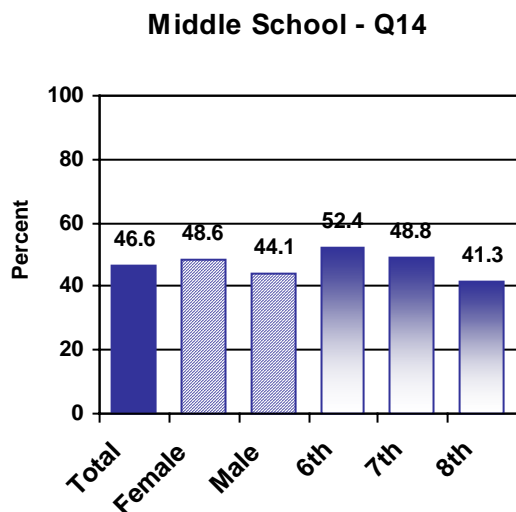
RELATED NATIONAL HEALTH OBJECTIVES FOR THE YEAR 2010

15.19 Increase use of seatbelts to 92%.

26.6 Reduce the proportion of adolescents who report that they rode, during the previous 30 days, with a driver who had been drinking alcohol to 30 percent.

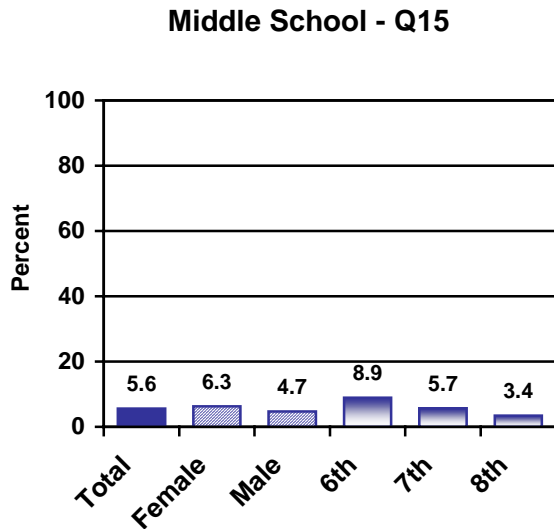
Response to the survey items that measure the frequency with which Nevada students engage in behaviors related to unintentional injuries and students' perceptions regarding their personal safety is summarized below.

Percentage of students who always wear a seatbelt when riding in a car:



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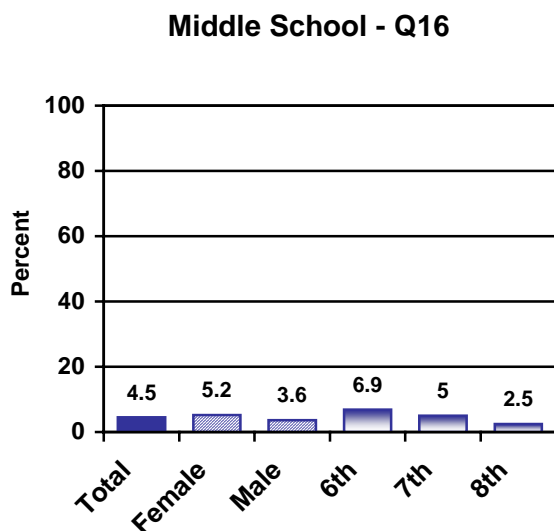
Of students who ride a bicycle, the percentage who always wear a helmet:



Bicycle helmets are 85-88% effective in mitigating head and brain injuries, making the use of helmets the single most effective way to reduce head injuries and fatalities resulting from bicycle crashes.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration--March 2005

Of students who rollerblade or ride a skateboard, the percentage who always wear a helmet:

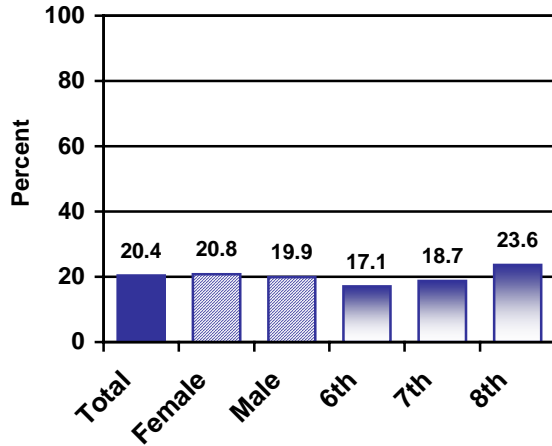


In the past decade, 97% of Nevadans killed while riding bicycles were not wearing helmets.

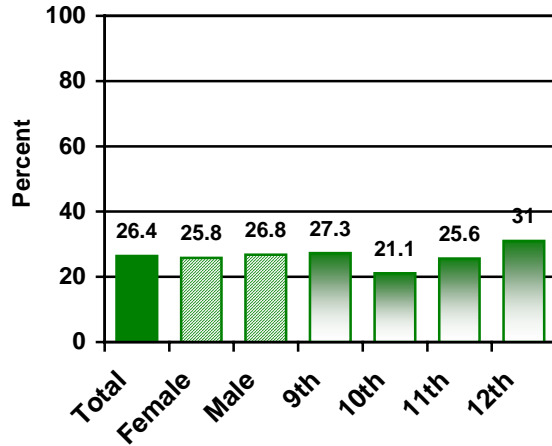
Nevada Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, March 2002

Percentage of students who during the past 30 days rode one or more times in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol:

Middle School - Q18

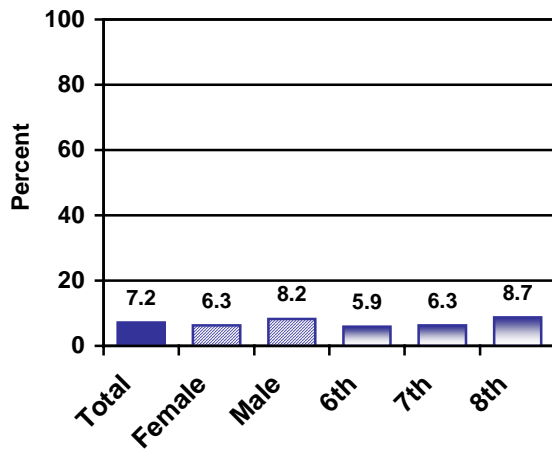


High School - Q15

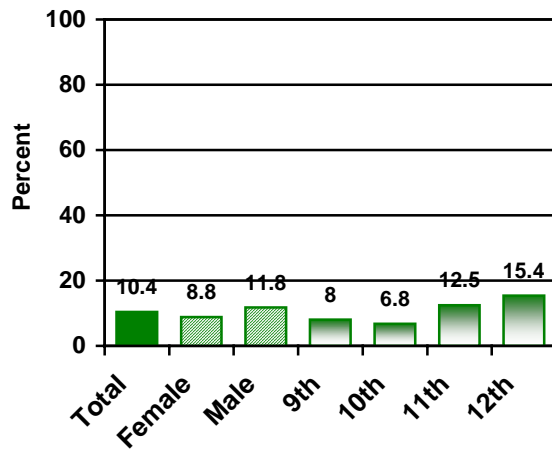


Percentage of students who during the past 30 days drove a car or other vehicle one or more times when they had been drinking alcohol:

Middle School - Q19

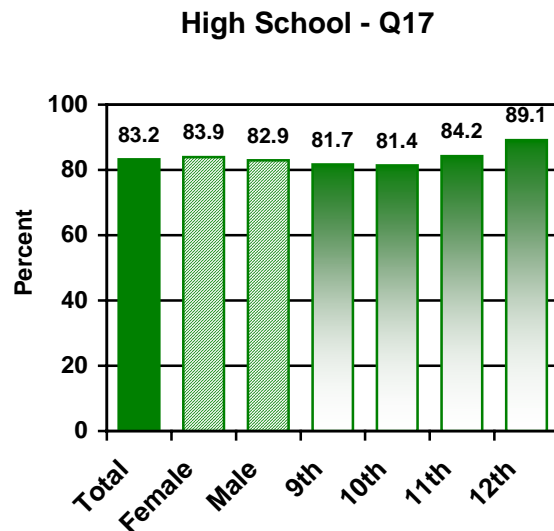
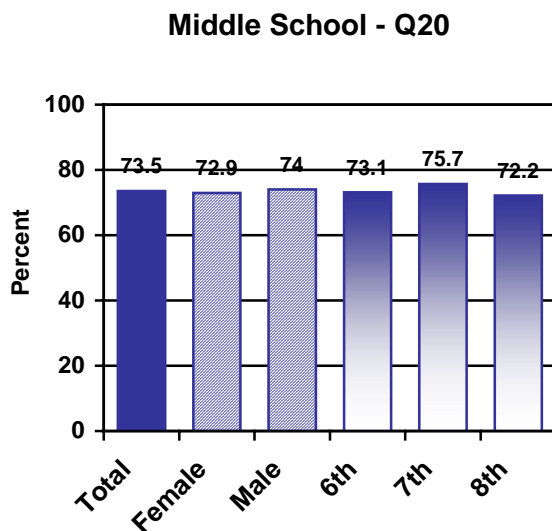


High School - Q16

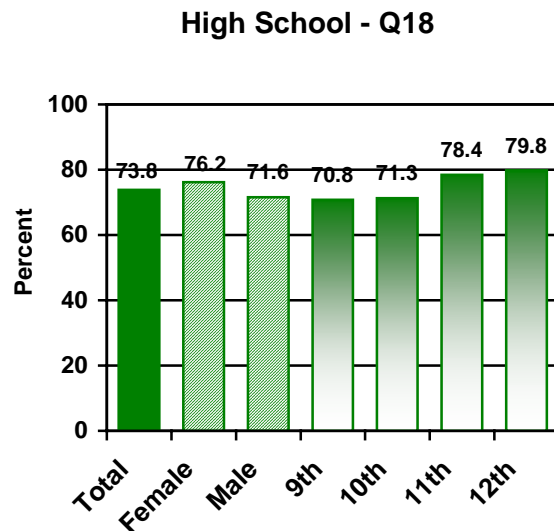
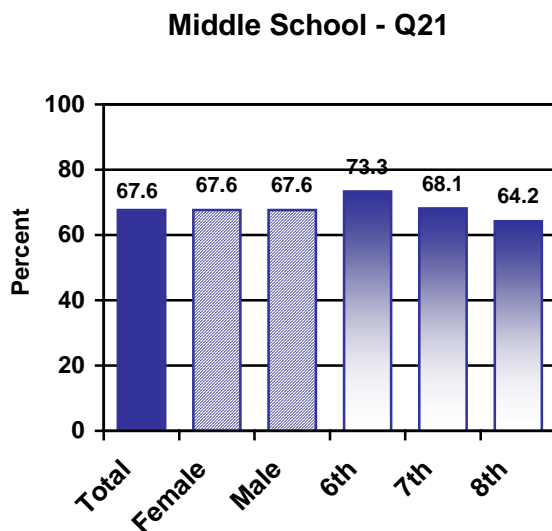


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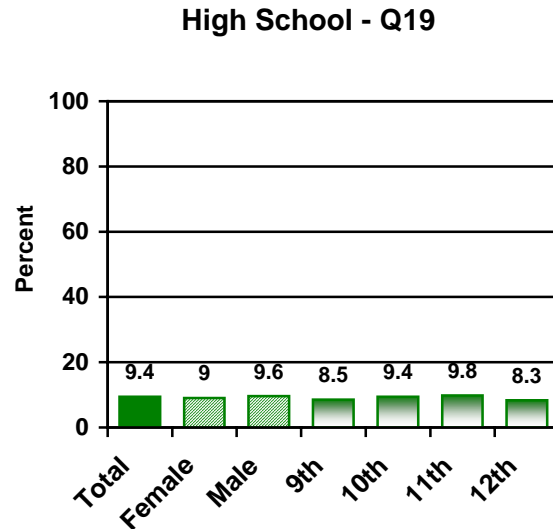
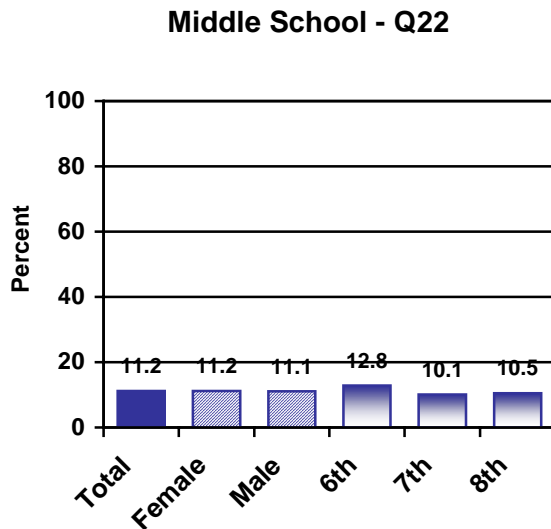
Percentage of students who feel safe and secure in their neighborhood all or most of the time:



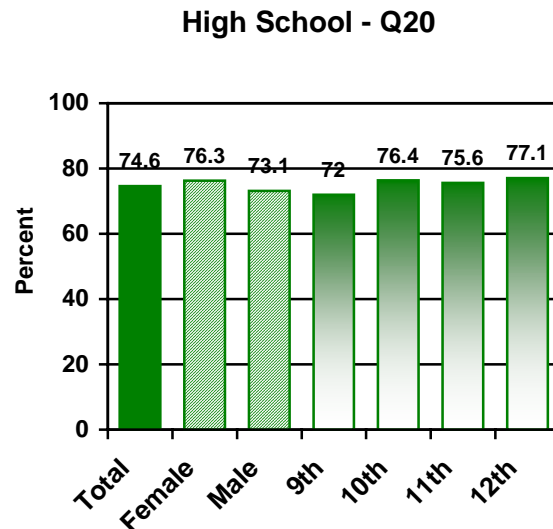
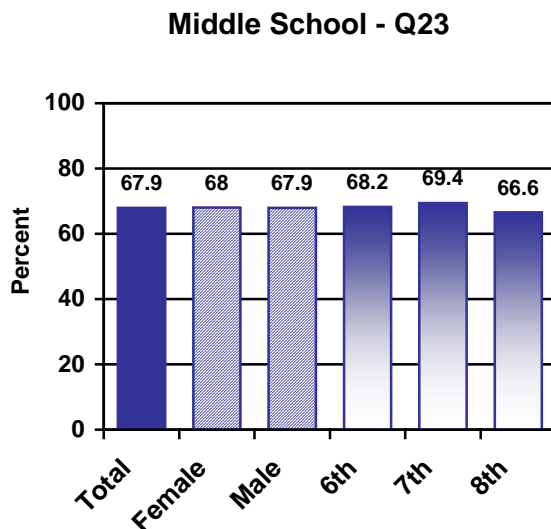
Percentage of students who feel safe and secure at school all or most of the time:



Percentage of students who did not go to school on one or more of the past 30 days because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school:

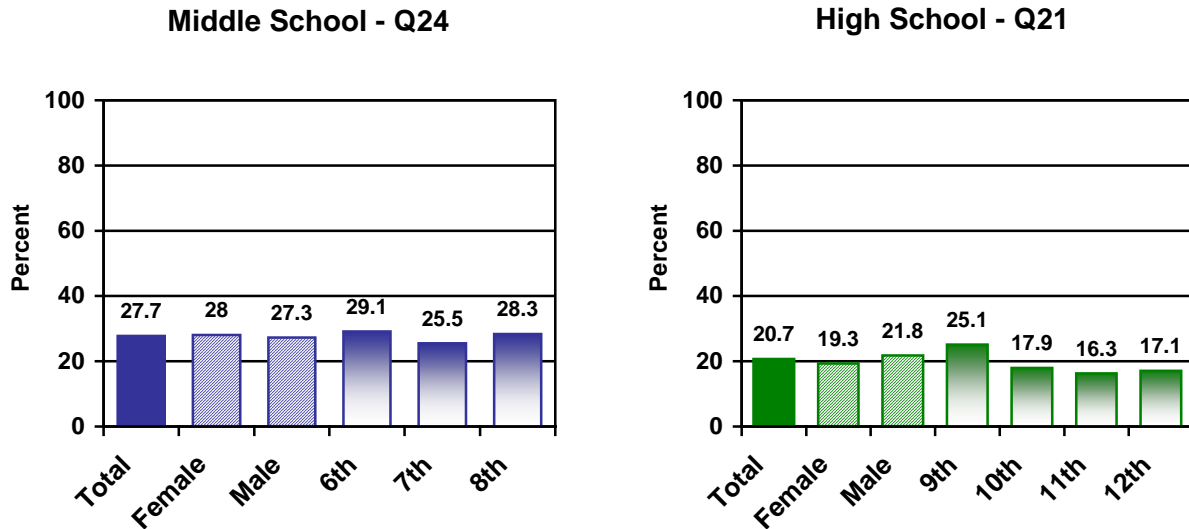


Percentage of students who feel that they are accepted at school all or most of the time:

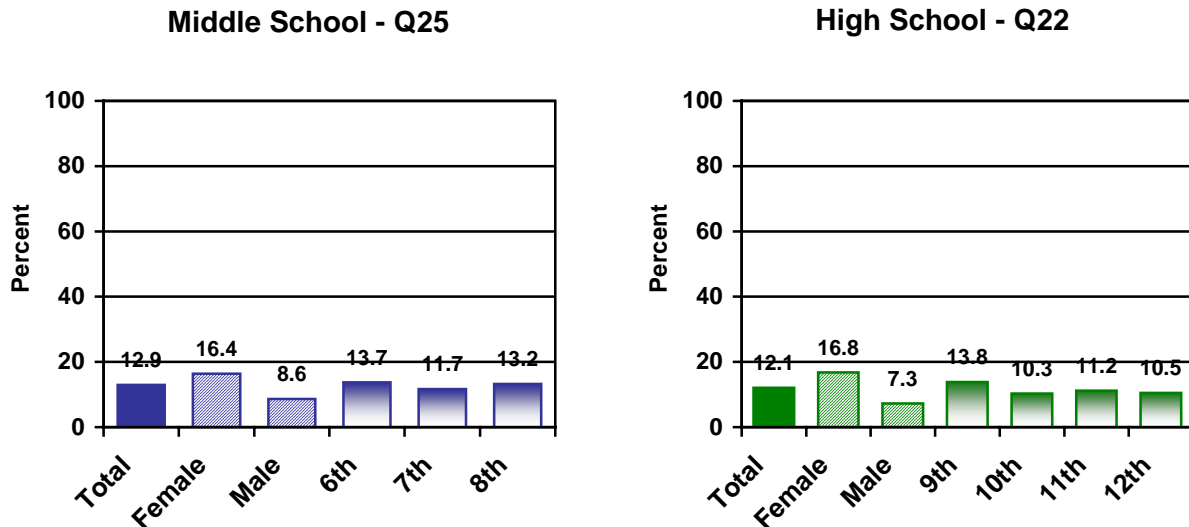


2005 Nevada YRBS

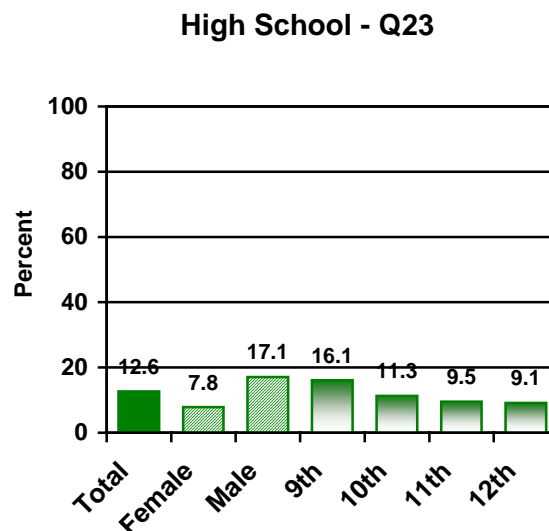
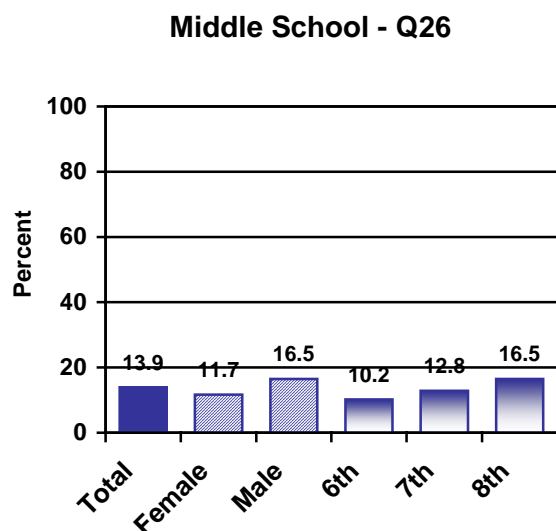
Percentage of students who were offended, threatened, frightened or attacked one or more times in the past 30 days because of their racial or ethnic background:



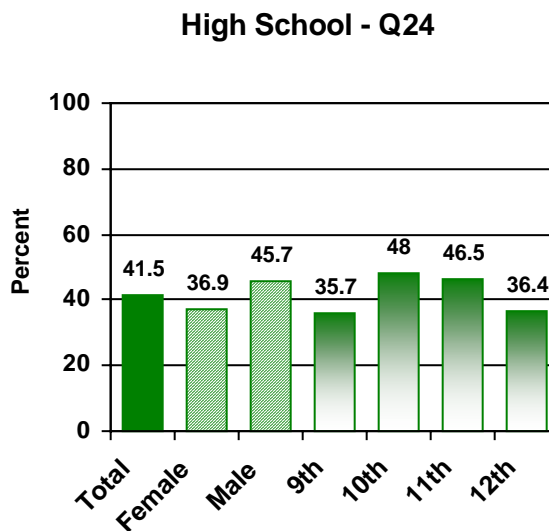
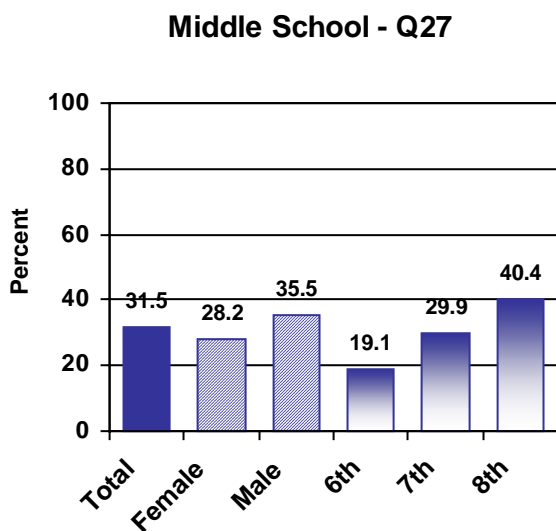
Percentage of students who were offended, threatened, frightened or attacked one or more times in the past 30 days because of their gender:



Percentage of students who have ever belonged to a street gang:



Percentage of students who believe there is gang activity in their school:



2005 Nevada YRBS

VIOLENCE-RELATED BEHAVIORS

Approximately nine out of ten homicide victims in the United States are killed with a weapon of some type, such as a gun, knife, or club.⁴ Homicide is the second leading cause of death among young people age 15-24 overall. In this age group, it is the leading cause of death among African-Americans, the second leading cause of death for Hispanics, and the third leading cause of death for American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Asian Pacific Islanders.⁵ Firearms, which were the instrument of death in over 80 percent of teen homicides in 2001,⁶ intensify violence and increase the likelihood of fatality in a conflict.⁷ Gang violence has been associated with many teen murders; in 2002 nearly three-quarters of homicides were attributed to gang violence.⁷ Nonfatal violence, i.e., fighting, often precedes fatal violence among young persons.⁸ Nationally, nearly 60 percent of adolescents report at least one episode of dating violence,⁹ while 20 percent report they have experienced forced sex.¹⁰

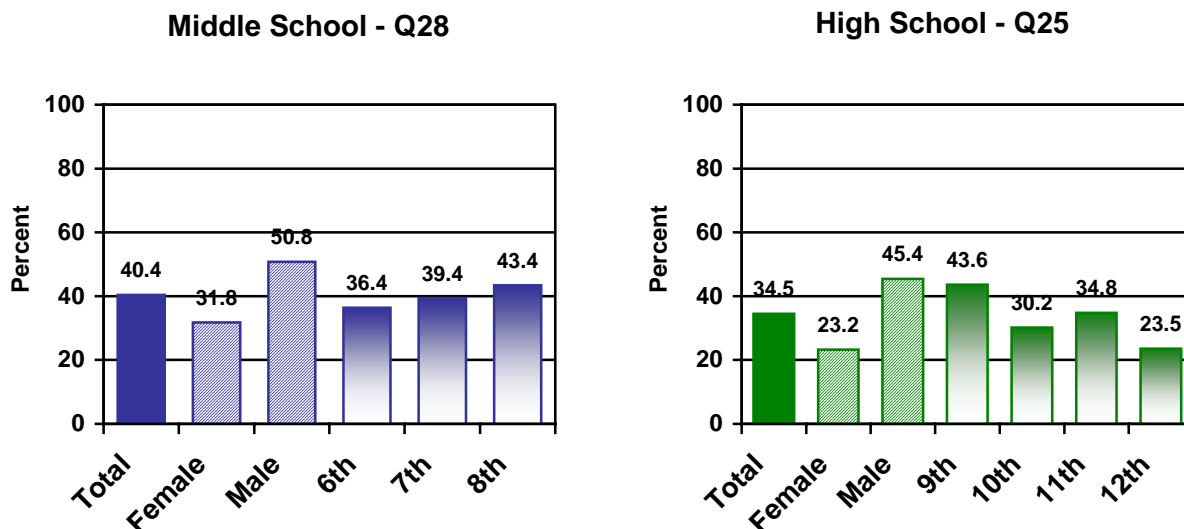
Three-fourths of violent deaths that occurred on school property between 1994 and 1999 involved firearms.⁵ Nearly 100 percent of school districts now prohibit students from possessing and using a weapon in the school building or on school grounds.¹¹ Between 1993 and 2003 a significant decrease occurred in weapon carrying among high school students on school property (12%-6%).¹²

RELATED NATIONAL HEALTH OBJECTIVE FOR THE YEAR 2010

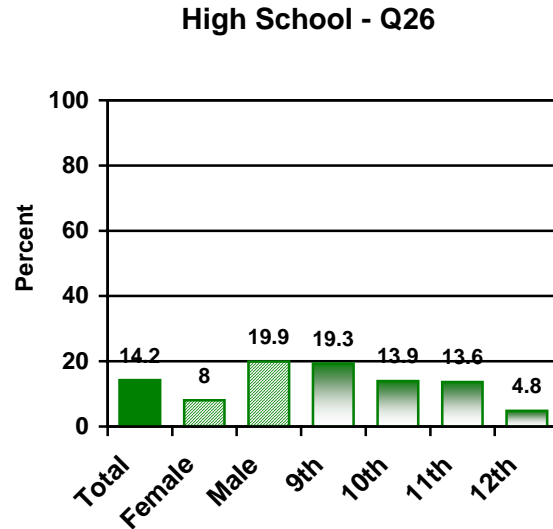
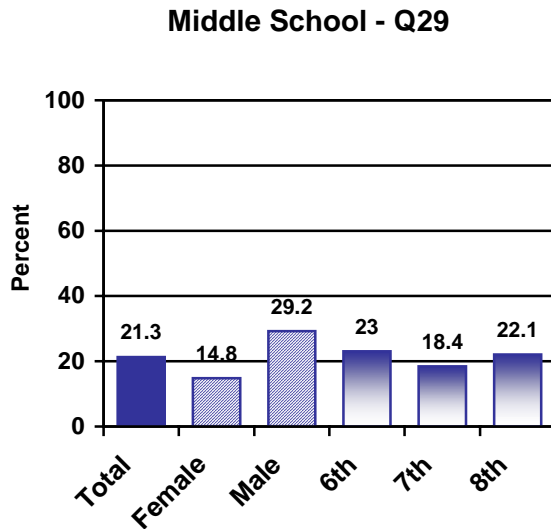
15.39 Reduce weapon carrying by adolescents on school property to 4.9%.

Response to the survey items that measure the frequency with which Nevada students engage in violence-related behaviors or are the victims of violence is shown below.

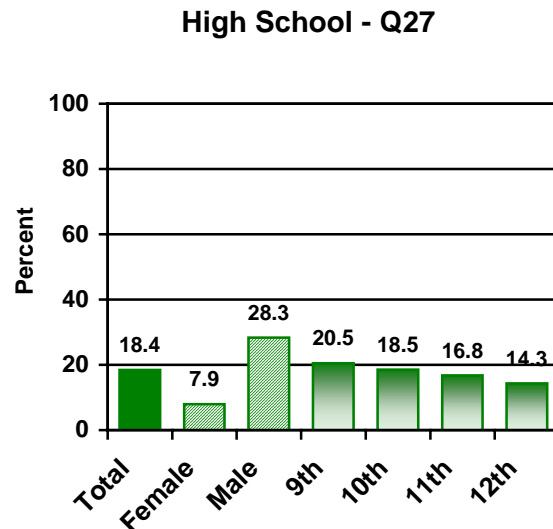
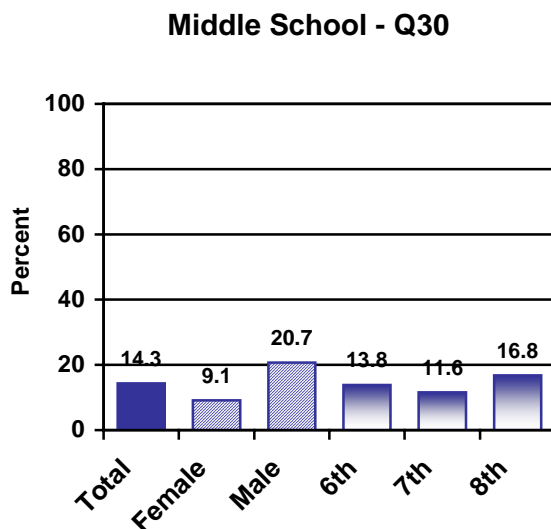
Percentage of students who were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months:



Percentage of students who were in a physical fight on school property one or more times during the past 12 months:

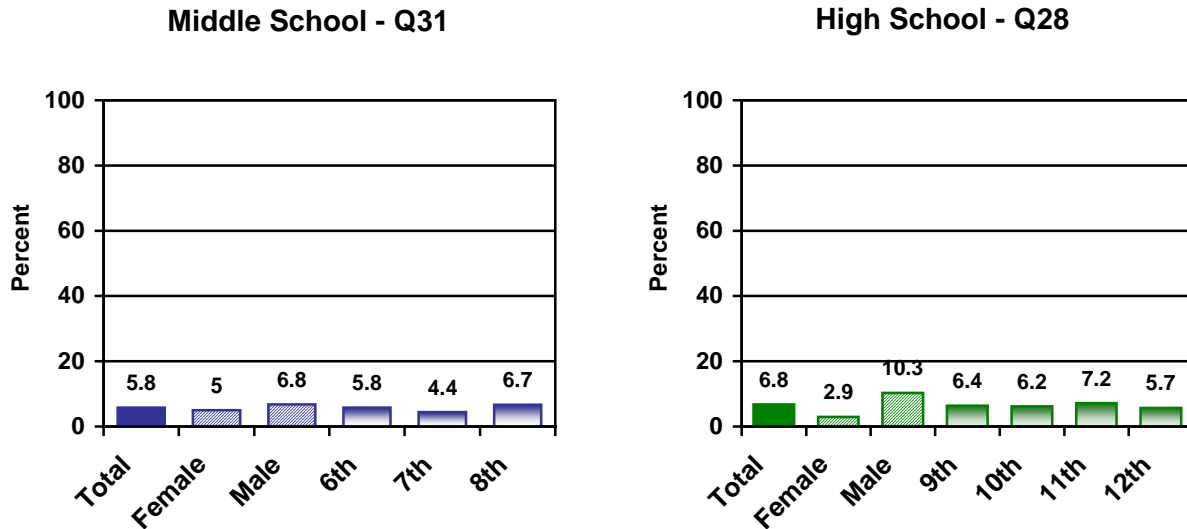


Percentage of students who carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on one or more of the past 30 days:

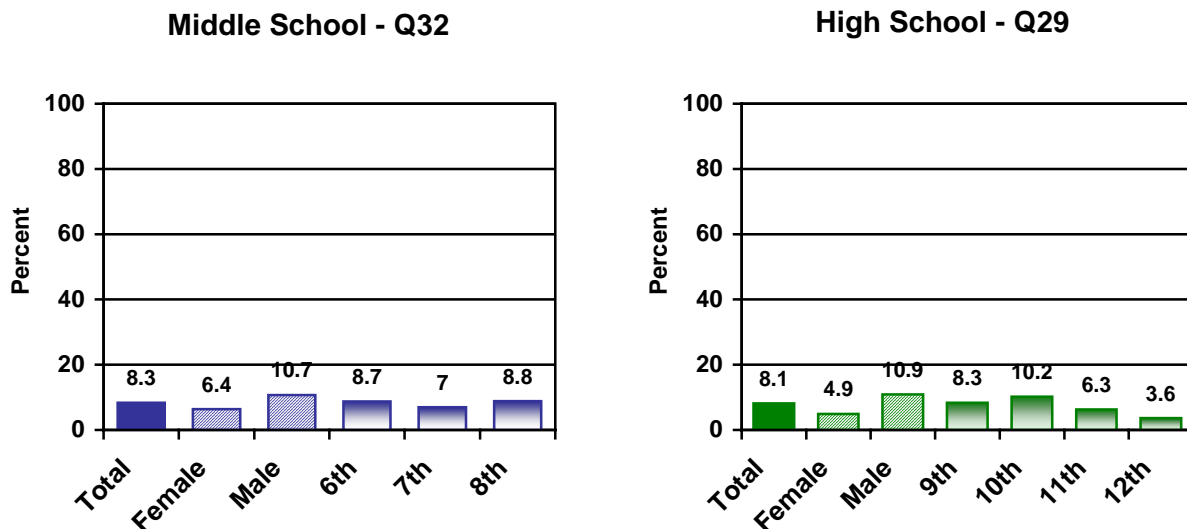


2005 Nevada YRBS

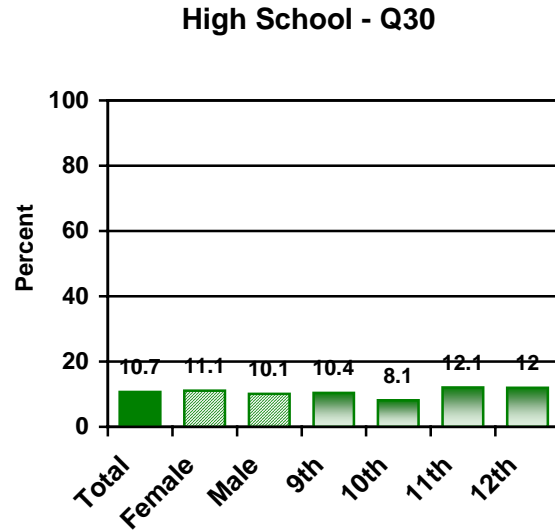
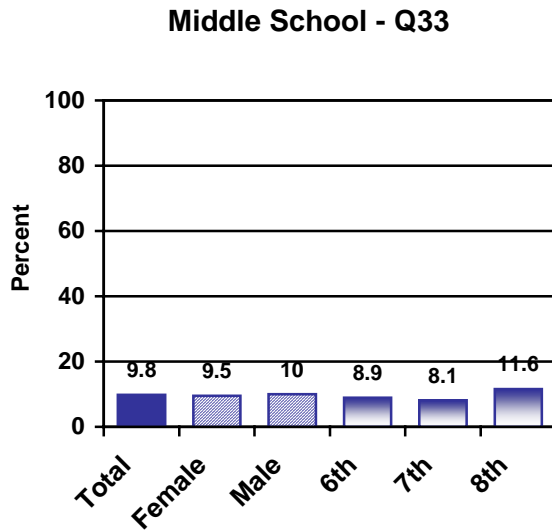
Percentage of students who carried a weapon on school property on one or more of the past 30 days:



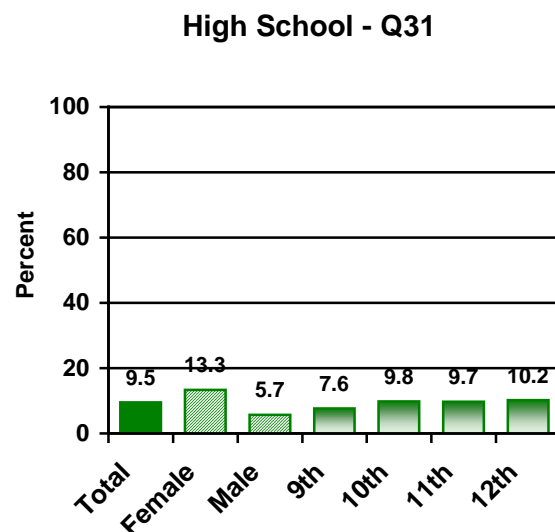
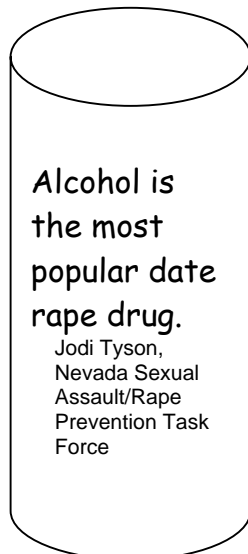
Percentage of students who were threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property one or more times during the past 12 months:



Percentage of students who were ever hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the past 12 months:



Percentage of students who have ever been forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to:



2005 Nevada YRBS

SUICIDE

Nationally, suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth aged 15-24. Between 1970 and 1994, the teen suicide rate increased from 5.9 to 11.1 per 100,000; however, by 2002 it had declined to 7.4 per 100,000.⁷ Attempted suicide is also considered a lethal health event, for it is a proven risk factor for future completed suicide and a potential indicator of other health problems such as substance abuse and depression.¹³ The risk of suicide increases dramatically when kids and teens have access to firearms at home¹⁴, and firearms were the instrument of death in about half of teen suicides in 2002.⁷

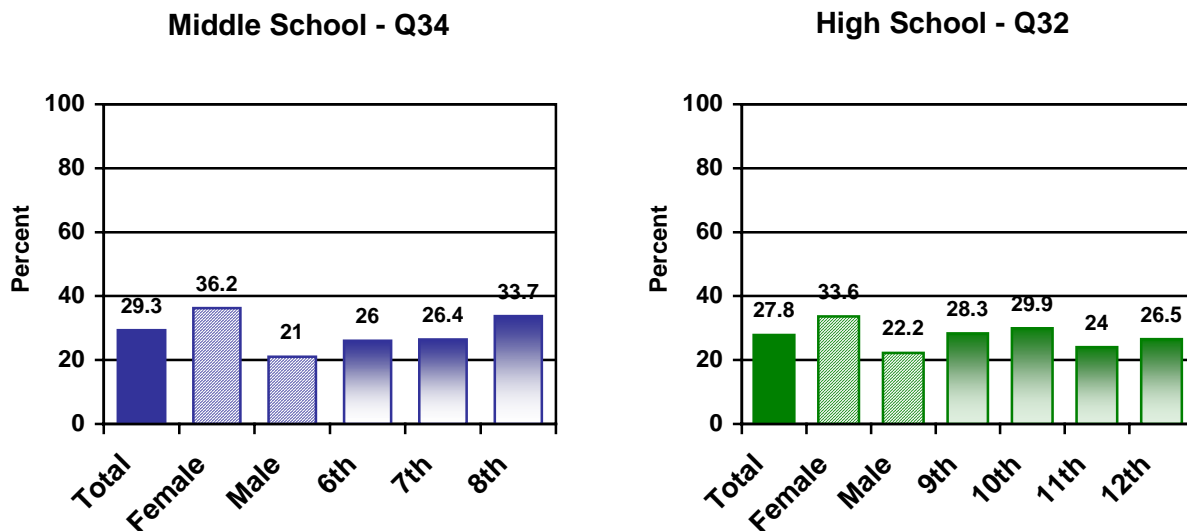
Nevada's suicide rate for youth aged 15-19 continues to be among the highest in the country.¹⁵ In 2001 the rate was 14.1 per 100,000 for 15-24-year-olds. Nevada is a leader in three of the four categories the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta uses to determine the at-risk status for youth suicide -- feelings of hopelessness, consideration of suicide, plans of committing suicide and attempted suicide. The only category where Nevada did better than the national average in 2003 was in planning to commit suicide -- 15.1 percent of Nevada youths compared with 16.5 percent nationally.¹⁶

RELATED NATIONAL HEALTH OBJECTIVES FOR THE YEAR 2010

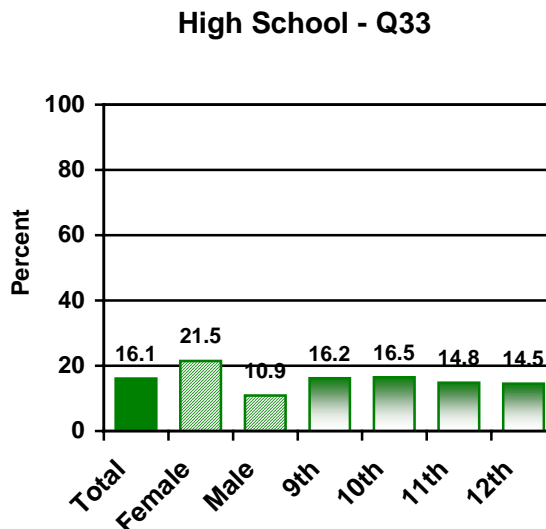
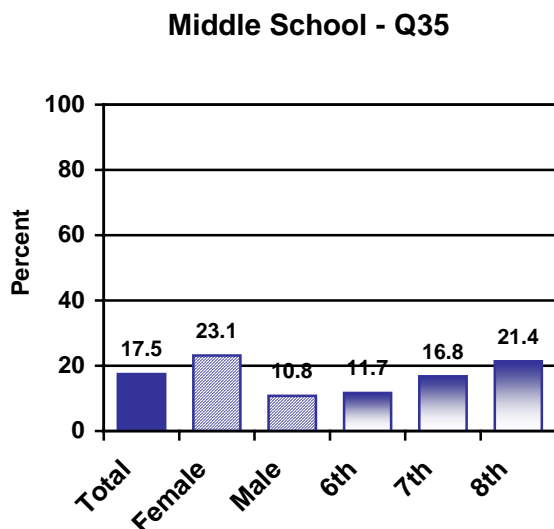
18.02 Reduce the rate of suicide attempts by adolescents to a 12-month average of 1%.

Response to the survey items that measure prolonged sadness, suicide ideation, and attempted suicide is summarized below.

Percentage of students who ever felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months:



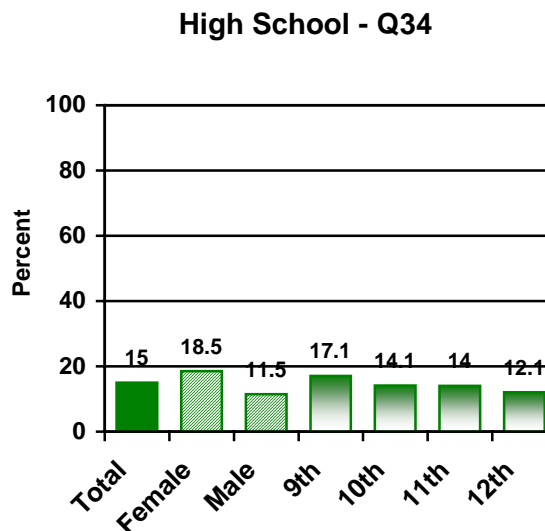
Percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months:



Percentage of students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months:

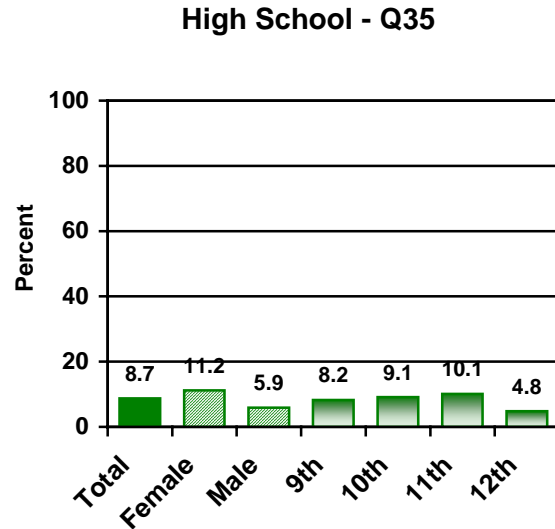
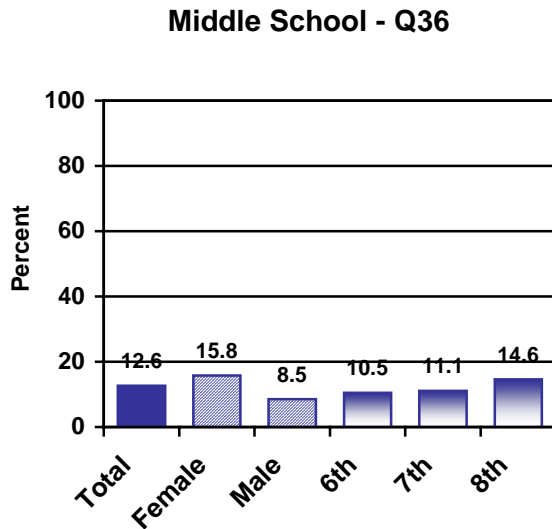
Nationally, more than 500,000 youth attempt suicide every year, and 5,000 youth suicides occur each year.

*Wanda Y. Johnson
"Youth Suicide, The School's Role in Prevention and Response," Phi Delta Kappa Ed. Foundation, c. 1999*



2005 Nevada YRBS

Percentage of students who actually attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months:



Percentage of students who attempted suicide during the past 12 months and had to be treated by a doctor or a nurse:

Females more often attempt suicide (3:1); males are more often successful (4:1).

U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Service, National Institute of Mental Health, March 2002

